

NEWS OF LOCAL PLAYHOUSES

Editor's note—This column is devoted exclusively to Washington playhouses, their management, productions, and the stage folk who will be seen in this city either this week or in the very near future.

Sir Charles Wyndham, perhaps the greatest living authority on the comedy, says that George Giddens, now playing in Annie Russell's company, is the best Tony Lumpkin the stage has ever seen.

"The Woman," David Belasco's dramatic novelty, will follow "The Love Leash" at the Columbia Theater.

Twelve Chinese dancing girls, the first of the sort ever imported from that country, were brought over for "The Daughter of Heaven," the Chinese spectacular drama, which will be seen at the National this week.

Managers Fred G. Berger and Oliver S. Metzger returned from New York during the past week with a pocket full of contracts, calling for plays for presentation to the Columbia Theater. Players when that organization opens its season at the popular F Street house.

Thurston, the world's master magician, who comes to the Academy shortly, has engaged a special added attraction, Hago Hamide troupe of Arabs. They will be seen in one of the illusions called "The Vanishing Devils," in which these whirling sons of the desert will be made to vanish from the center of a well-lighted stage in full view of the audience.

Nora Bayes will be presented by Lew Fields as the star of "The Sun Dodgers," described as being "twice brother to 'The Midnight Sun,'" which comes to the Belasco for the week of March 21.

Grace Filkins, Frederick Truesdale, and the other members of "The Love Leash" company will arrive in Washington about the middle of the week for the final rehearsal of the piece, which opens at the Columbia Theater Easter Monday.

Annie Russell and Edith Wynne Matheson were the alternating stars during the last year of the New Theater Association with them are A. E. Anson, Henry Kolker and Oswald Yorke, Annie Russell's husband.

The curtain will rise at the New National Theater at 4 o'clock next Thursday afternoon on Lillian Russell's entertainment, which she calls "How to Live a Hundred Years."

When Forbes-Robertson produced "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" in London four years ago, he expected that it would run six weeks. It has come nearer running six years.

"The Arc," the new feature in Astor's vaudeville repertoire of "Big Moments from Great Plays," is said to have proved the strongest tabloid drama she has presented in vaudeville. The relief of the tension by playing a comedy or two in the same bill.

Ian MacLaren, the distinguished English actor, who is now appearing in the role of the Emperor of China in "The Daughter of Heaven," is to make an extensive lecture tour during the summer, when he will lecture on the English drama. Mr. MacLaren is a producer as well as an actor, and has made many of the most notable productions of the English stage.

Mr. Tang Young-Low, the nephew of Tane Shoy, the first Premier of the new Chinese Republic, freely gave his services to the Lillian company in connection with its wonderful production of "The Daughter of Heaven," which comes to the National this week.

As Mr. Giddens has been playing Tony Lumpkin off and on for thirty years, it is not strange that his acting of the role should be remarkable.

"Mutt and Jeff," that infallible mirth provoker fashioned after Bud Fisher's cartoons in the New York American, will play a return engagement at the Academy early in April.

Gertrude Bonhill will have her most important role of the year in "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" at Poli's this week. She plays the Painted Lady, the part created in the original production by England's most gifted character actress, Miss Hildie Wright. Miss Wright played the maiden aunt in "Milestones" in the London production.

Helen Hays Brown, the little miss who has won a host of friends by her work with the Columbia Players, is already at work upon a part in which she will be seen during the coming summer season of that company.

Max Pauer, in the few weeks he has been before the American public, has been hailed as the successor to Paderewski.

It is a mistaken statement that the Harry Clarke report to be married to Nora Bayes is a son of the late Greston Clarke. The son of Mr. Clarke's wife, Adelaide Prince, by a former marriage, took the name of his stepfather, but the actor himself had no children.

Autumn Hall, the young Pittsburgh violinist, who has entered vaudeville, and comes to Chase's next week, is said by Emil Paur, the great conductor, to be the most promising of the violinists in America to-day.

One outcome of Lillian Russell's present campaign in the interest of humanity is the preparation by her of a book on the subject of health and beauty, which will be published in the early fall by McClure.

James E. Cooper and his wife, Lucia Cooper, decline to be separated on the stage. When Mr. Cooper left the "Jersey Lilies" this season to become principal comedian with "Beauty, Folly, and Youth," Mrs. Cooper followed him.

Sol Ward and Ed Swartz, the two comedians who are featured with the "Dandy Girls" at the Lyceum this week, will enter vaudeville at the close of the regular burlesque season.

"Snobs," one of the brilliant successes of the past two seasons, will be presented by the Henry B. Harris estate at the Academy the latter part of the month. This play, from the pen of George Bronson Howard, will serve to introduce Shep Camp as a star.

Amelia Bingham, Chase's chief Easter attraction, is supported by Miss Lila Leish, Miss Elizabeth Stuart, Beauford Lovett, and Lloyd Bingham.

Among the organizers and subscribers to Annie Russell's Old English Comedy Company season in New York were Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, Mrs. H. P. Whitney, Mrs. Payne Whitney, Mrs. August Belmont (Eleanor Robinson), Mrs. Borden Harriman, Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Mrs. William Jay Schieffelin, Edward Bok, John H. Iselin, and Amos R. E. Pinchot.

Richard Carle and Hattie Williams in their laughable offering, "The Girl from Montmartre," come to the National the week after the engagement of Mrs. Fiske.

Those who remember Miss Eva Vivian Pattison and her clever work in the part

will no doubt look forward with pleasant anticipation to her appearance in "Rabes in the Woods" under the direction of Miss Hawke at the Belasco Theater, Thursday matinee, March 7.

Eolson's "kinescope" or talking "movies," the sensational marvel of the decade, will be seen at Chase's, beginning with the week of April 7.

For the week beginning Monday, March 24, the feature attraction at the Garden will be a film production of Sardou's "Cleopatra."

"The Garden of Allah" will be the attraction at the National the week beginning April 14.

David Warfield comes to the National April 28, and the week preceding it the great production of "Ben-Hur" will be the offering.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

National—Mrs. Fiske in "The High Road."

Mrs. Fiske and the Manhattan Company, under the direction of Harrison Grey Fiske, are to come to the National next week, presenting Edward Sheldon's new play, "The High Road." The association of Mrs. Fiske and Mr. Sheldon was particularly happy in "Salvation Nell," his first play, and the New York success of "The High Road," the remarkable amount of discussion that the play has aroused and the wonderful tributes that have been paid to Mrs. Fiske for her visualization of Mary Page, have shown how much greater even than before, is the artistic and dramatic leadership of our stage and our most promising playwright.

Mrs. Fiske seldom selects to appear in a play which does not permit of a close analysis and carry something beyond mere entertainment, as in "The High Road" she is said to have a play that is in every way worthy of her attention.

The principal members of Mrs. Fiske's company are Frederick Perry and Arthur Byron.

Belasco—Walker Whiteside in "The Typhoon."

Walker Whiteside will present Menyber Longley's European success, "The Typhoon," at the Belasco next week. The play, which has been running in the European service, and depicts in a most extraordinary manner how the Japanese with their qualities as ferocious, burrow under nations and ultimately secure information that the Mikado deems necessary to keep his country in the closest touch with every move made by the enemy.

Mr. Whiteside is a native of Japan, and has secured for him one of the greatest artistic triumphs of recent years. The identical production which attracted so much attention in New York early in the year by its beauty and completeness, will be brought here intact.

Columbia—"The Love Leash."

Grace Filkins, the popular star of the former Columbia Theater Stock Company, will be seen at that theater Easter week in a new American comedy, "The Love Leash," by Anna Steves Richardson and Edmund Dreese. This will be the first appearance of Miss Filkins in this city for some time.

"The Love Leash" is a comedy dealing with the conjugal felicity of a young couple. The husband becomes sated with affection and this is the cause of numerous misunderstandings and complications. The play is being presented by the New Era Producing Company, Joseph F. F. Jr., managing director, and the cast includes besides Miss Filkins, Frederick Truesdale, who has also appeared here with stock companies and productions; John Flood, Lee Kohlman, Horace Mitchell, Felix Krembs, Jennie Eustace, Isabelle Richards, and Ann Meredith.

Chase's—Polite Vaudeville.

An appropriate Easter week bill will be presented at Chase's next week, the star attraction being Amelia Bingham and company, in the 1912-13 series of her vaudeville repertoire, "Big Moments from Great Plays," in which she is featuring her new production of "Joan of Arc." The extra added comedy offering will be the Hibernian character comedian, Tom Nawn, of "Pat and the Gent" fame, with his own company in "The College Coach."

Another inclusion will be Autumn Hall, the young American violin virtuoso, pupil of the European masters, Cesar Thomson and Hugo Hermann, and recently soloist of the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra. McDewitt, Kelly and Irene Lucy will give a farce with songs and dances. Ed Flanagan and Neely Edwards will present "On and On," a sequel to their former success "On and Off." Ed Norton, the fonographic fun-maker, is another inclusion. Bertish, "The Ideal athlete," is an imported addition. The kinescope, a photoplay will be "Ode to the Woman Spy."

Academy—"The White Slave."

"The White Slave" will be presented at the Academy next week, under the personal direction of Robert Campbell, son of the famous author. "The White Slave" is a melodrama with plenty of thrills, real emotional acting, and an excellent band of negro singers and dancers. "The White Slave" is not a new play. It is built around slavery days and is founded on the no-believe that a supposedly cotton-rich girl is sold into slavery with negroes. Because she will not submit to the cruelty of her master she is subjected to his insults, and finally escapes from his plantation in Mississippi by a steamer which she had lived up to the time of her having been sold into slavery.

Poli's—"The College Widow."

For Easter week Poli's will offer George Ade's breezy comedy, "The College Widow." The play tells the amusing story of Jane Witherspoon, daughter of the president of Atwater College, who falls in love with a student every term. At the opening of the play she is in love with Billy Bolton, who becomes the hero of the annual Thawing Day game of football with Atwater's greatest rival, Bingham. The college spirit is presented in the play as in no other comedy. Mr. Ade being especially adept in portraying youthful fads and follies, "The College Widow" requires an unusually large cast and elaborate stage setting.

Gaiety—Waldron's Trocadero.

Waldron's Trocadero burlesques will be the attraction to follow "Beauty, Youth, and Folly" at the Gaiety next week. Frank Finney again heads the Trocadero

cast of funmakers, and he is responsible for this season's two-act musical farce called "The Dukes," in which he plays one of the dukes, with Sam Adams and Joseph Milton as his associates. One of the big features of the Trocadero Burlesques this season is a spectacular chorus number in which the girls represent Uncle Sam's West Pointers and Midwives. The costumes and stage effects are said to be the most elaborate ever offered by Charles Waldron.

Lyceum—"The Girl from Missouri."

"The Girl from Missouri" opens their engagement at the Lyceum next week. The management has engaged a company of clever entertainers, the principal one being dainty Eva Mull, who plays the title role of "The Little Leading Lady," the two-act musical satire which was written by George Totten Smith. Besides dainty Eva Mull, cast principals are Marguerite Cushing, Leathe Keeney, Fred Russell, Jimmie Kearney, Bobby Harrington, J. Francis Reynolds, and the song and comedy.

Friday night the country store, with Irish-American trio, who entertain in lots of new novelties, will be repeated.

BERNHARDT SUGGESTED "DAUGHTER OF HEAVEN"

It was upon the suggestion of Sarah Bernhardt that "The Daughter of Heaven" (La Fille du Ciel) was written. Pierre Loti, under the theme and its surroundings, and his distinguished collaborator, Judith Gautier, daughter of the famous novelist, Theophile Gautier, and one-time wife of the equally famous Cutile Mendes, gave the proper conception and reading of the Chinese character and mental processes. But Mrs. Bernhardt found that to stage the play was too costly, even for her, and so it remained untouched, a poetic drama of exceeding beauty, until the Liebler Company made it the second of its series of productions at the Century Theater, New York. Mr. Loti came over to supervise the production and attend the rehearsal. He furnished much interesting copy for the New York newspapers. He was entertained at Harvard, was received by President Taft at Beverly, invited to Washington, but called back to his beloved France, and his appetite for further, whom the strenuous rush and scramble of American life ever dazed and amazed.

M. Loti is a member of the Legion of Honor, the French Academy, and is decorated by three-quarters of the reigning monarchs and learned societies of continental Europe. The rare quality of his literary genius is unquestioned.

MRS. FISKE RESPONSIBLE FOR NAME OF HER PLAY

Were it not that Mrs. Fiske is of a cheerful and sunny disposition; furthermore, were she not very musical and fond particularly of old folk songs, it might be that her new play, "The High Road," would never have had that title. When the play was written, no title was given it and rehearsals had been in progress for two weeks or more before it could be spoken of as anything other than "the play."

The date of production was rapidly approaching and a number of things that were absolutely dependent upon the title of the play, were at a standstill. Mr. and Mrs. Fiske and Mr. Sheldon, the author, therefore, resolutely attacked the problem one day, but after again canvassing every old and new suggestion they still were baffled. They were all sitting quietly, engaged in a "thought congress," when Mrs. Fiske suddenly began to sing softly that old Scotch ballad, "Loch Lomond." When she reached the words, "you take the high road and I'll take the low road," Mr. Sheldon, sitting from his chair, exclaimed, "Wait, Mrs. Fiske! There's the name for the play—"The High Road."

And "The High Road" it was christened then and there.

Garden Sunday Concerts.

Included in to-day's programme at the Garden, will be the world's great mimic, Chickadee; Kinney and McCoy, in a clever singing and comedy talk act, and Bockman and Groff, the dainty sister team. The usual selection of photoplays, scenic and comic subjects, a musical programme of classic and popular music by the Garden symphony orchestra of ten.

On Monday and Tuesday a magnificent film production of Homer's "Odyssey" will be shown at the Garden. This motion picture cost \$50,000 to stage and produce, and in its historic features is one of the most interesting pictures ever shown here. It carries the endorsement of many university professors.

Pictures of Inauguration. To-day at the Alhambra Theater, the management will present for the last time the original Gaumont motion pictures of the inauguration, and also the hike to Washington, showing the parade of the suffragettes on the avenue March 3.

AMUSEMENTS.

DR. ARTHUR J. SMITH

Of New York.

The "Tent Evangelist"

Speaks to Men Sunday at

National Theater

Subject of Address:

"GREAT"

Soloist,

EARL CARBAUGH, Barytone

Doors Open at 3 p. m. Tickets at

Y. M. C. A. Drug Stores, Lunch Rooms.

MEN ONLY

FREE

Illustrated Lectures

Every Monday Evening.

Subject for Monday, March 17,

"ALONG THE SUNSET TRAIL"

805 F St. N. W.

FLORODORA

REHEARSAL OF CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY.

Sale of seats begins Monday, March 17, at 7.

ARTIST SEATS, 125 F St.

COLUMBIA THEATRE.

HEINRICH HAMMER, Conductor.

BARNSTORMED IN SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM'S CO.

Although George Giddens is an Englishman, and much of his success was achieved on the stage in his native land, a great deal of his professional career was spent in America. His last professional appearance here, before he joined Annie Russell's Old English Comedy Company as principal comedian, was with "Pomander Walk," Louis N. Parker's quaint old comedy that was seen at the Belasco Theater last season. The kind of parts he is now playing in Miss Russell's company—Tony Lumpkin, in "The Broomstick Comedians," and Bob Acres, in "The Rivals"—he has done many times in England, and mostly in important revivals with distinguished casts.

Years ago he barnstormed in this country. The early days, not long after the barnstorming period, he played in Charles Wyndham's company. That was long before he was Sir Charles and had either artistic or managerial fame. But he was with the distinguished Englishman in this country and in London, when both fortune and fame and glory were smiling. Giddens tells an amusing experience of the early days with Wyndham in this country.

"Marvellously Esquetric."

Norris Millington, the boy actor, who has scored one of the big hits in "The Daughter of Heaven," is like so many child actors, addicted to a vocabulary far beyond his years. An admiring aunt recently took little Norris to supper between the matinee and evening performances of the big Chinese spectacle. The boy staggered her by ordering a large number of the highest-priced items on the menu.

"But, Norris," she gasped, "aren't you afraid that so much eating will affect your work to-night?" "No, indeed, madam," replied the young headstrong gradely, "I am marvellously esquetric."

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NATIONAL ALL THIS WEEK

Mats. Wed. & Sat.

The only theater in Washington offering exclusively American and foreign stars of the first rank.

STARTING 8:00 SHARP NIGHTS

With Wednesday and Saturday Matinees at 2:00.

The Companion Pageant Drama "The Garden of Allah"

and "Joseph and His Brethren."

The Liebler Co.'s \$100,000 Production of the Wondrous Spectacle-Play of Modern China.

Evenings and Saturday Matinees, 50c

Prices to \$2. Wednesday Mat., 50c to \$1.50

EASTER MON. MAR. 24

MATINEES WED.—SAT.

SEATS THURS. Mail Orders NOW

SPECIAL MATINEE

Next Thursday Afternoon, 4 o'clock

In Her Unique Entertainment

Entitled

"HOW TO LIVE

100 YEARS"

LILLIAN RUSSELL

Analyzed by Kinescope Pictures

Direct from Fulton Theater, New York

Prices: 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, and \$1.50—Best Seats Tomorrow Morning at Theater.

WASHINGTON'S LEADING

THEATRE

Closed Holy Week

Next Week—SEATS NOW SELLING.

The New Era Producing Company, Joseph F. Bickerton, Jr., Managing

Director, Will Present

"THE LOVE LEASH"

A Comedy of the Moment in Three Acts, by Anna Steves Richardson and

Edmund Dreese. Staged by Ben Seal, with

And a Notable Cast, including Frederick Truesdale, John Flood, Lee

Kohlman, A. Norvna, Jennie Eustace, Ann Meredith,

Isabelle Richards, Horace Mitchell.

TO-NIGHT 8:15

AT 8:15

TO-MORROW AT 4:00

Friday at 4:00

MARCH 28

Friday at 4:30

APRIL 4

TO-NIGHT 8:15

AT 8:15

TO-MORROW AT 4:00

Friday at 4:00

MARCH 28

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MUSICAL TREATS COMING HERE SOON

Max Pauer in Recital.

In view of the impression created by the powerful German pianist, Max Pauer, on the occasion of his recent appearance in this city as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, it is not surprising that since his announcement of a recital by the eminent artist at the Columbia Theater a week from Friday afternoon, March 23, T. Arthur Smith has been deluged with applications for seat reservations for that occasion. It is safe to assert that not since the early days of Paderewski has a pianist created so profound a sensation in America as has Mr. Pauer in the few weeks he has been appearing in this country, with consensus of opinion that he is indeed the successor of the great Paderewski. Smith hopes to be able to announce the make-up of the programme for the coming concert within the next few days.

Mme. Culp to Return.

Mme. Julia Culp will be back in Washington a fortnight from Friday afternoon, April 4, for a final concert at the Columbia Theater, under the terms of her contract with T. Arthur Smith. The occasion will be made notable by the introduction of several novelties in a programme that will be an entire change over the one presented on the Friday afternoon, March 23. Recognized throughout the world as the greatest of Dutch lieder singers, if not the greatest of all lieder singers, Mme. Culp has met with extraordinary receptions everywhere.

New Brady Play.

"The Lady from Oklahoma," a play by Elizabeth Jordan, was presented under the direction of William A. Brady in Chicago last Monday night. In the cast are Jessie Bonafide, Alice Lindahl, William Harcourt, Henry Harmon, Edmund Davis, Walter Hitchcock, Kathryn Brown Decker, and many others.

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